Discussion with US authorities on various trade issues were held as a follow-up action on the Indo-US Commercial Dialogue. The Government is working closely with Export Promotion Councils and other apex organisations to promote exports to the USA.

The various steps taken towards the improvement and expansion of trade with China include holding of meetings of the Joint Economic Group, exchange of delegations, holding of Joint Business Councils Meetings, exchange of commercial information, participation in fairs and exhibitions etc.

Removal of restrictions on exports

3657. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a proposal to lift restrictions on export of certain items;

(b) if so, the details of those items; and

(c) by when Government would lift the restrictions on them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) to (c) Restrictions on export of Agricultural items were recently lifted except onion, niger seeds and a few other minor items. Restrictions on exports exist essentially due to security, environment concerns as well as international treaty obligations. The present list of export restrictions has been furnished to the Parliament Library in the publication; "ITC(HS) Classifications of Export and Import Items, 1st April, 2002—31st March, 2007".